(d) whether Government are aware of delay in delivering the amount to the affected persons or families, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken to ensure expeditious delivery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Seizure of Imported Vehicles by DRI

630. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Directorate of Revenue Intelligence(DRI) have seized about half a dozen imported vehicles were import/customs duty was not paid;

(b) if so, how many such vehicles were seized during 2003 and 2004; and

(c) How much amount was imposed as penalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. During the years 2005, 61 vehicles have been seized by DRI on account of misuse of Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme for service providers and 10 vehicles have been seized on account of evasion of customs duty by way of misdeclaration of the year of manufacture or model number of such vehicles.

(b) During 2003 one vehicle was seized while during 2004 two vehicles were seized.

(c) The cases booked are yet to be adjudicated. Decision regarding imposition of penalty will be taken by the adjudicating authority at the time of adjudication of these cases.

Revenue Collected under FBT

†631. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue collected under the Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) head in the first and second quarter (i.e. April-June and July-September) of the fiscal year 2005-06;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the percentage of the said amount with respect to total amount collected as Income Tax; and

(c) whether Government are aware of any decision of Madras High Court regarding Fringe Benefit Tax and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The provisional figures of total revenue collected under Fringe Benefit Tax for the first and second quarters of financial year 2005-06 are Rs. 795.25 crore and Rs. 896.4 crore respectively.

(b) The percentage of total collections under Fringe Benefit Tax (795.25 crore + 896.4 crore) to the total amount of Income Tax (Corporate Income Tax + Personal Income Tax) collected in the first and second quarters works out to 3.01%.

(c) A number of writ petitions have been filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras challenging the provisions of Fringe Benefit Tax. The Hon'ble Madras High Court has passed interim orders staying operation of Fringe Benefit Tax in a number of cases. Subsequent to filing of Writ Petitions in various High Courts, Union of India has filed a petition before the Supreme Court under Article 139A of the Constitution of India for transfer of writs to the Supreme Court.

Increase in ranking in terms of PPP

632. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has emerged as the fourth largest nation in terms of Purchasing Power Parity and it now needs to realign its strategies and policy framework to become 3rd largest by 2005;

(b) whether PPP is yet another measure for world economies, wherein in US topped with $10 trillion, followed by China, Japan and India;

(c) whether in order to be part of global competitive world, India has many challenges on hand where Indian companies approach business;